

REMARKS

As a supplement to the *Amendment* filed July 17, 2004 in response to the Office Action of April 7, 2004, Applicants hereby perfect their priority claim by providing a translation of Japanese Application No. 5-23289 (hereinafter the '289 priority application), as well as a Statement regarding Verification of Translation.

Applicants previously responded to the rejection of claims 1-4, 6-13, 15-22, 24-31, 33-39, 41-47, 49-56, 58-65 and 67-70 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,644,370 (to Miyawaki et al. by noting that the present application claims priority to the '289 priority application, having a filing date of January 18, 1993. On the other hand, the effective filing date of U.S. Patent No. 5,644,370 for a rejection under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) is January 28, 1993. Accordingly, Applicants submit that U.S. Patent No. 5,644,370 no longer can be considered prior art with regard to the instant application. Therefore, in view of Applicants' perfection of the priority claim, reconsideration and allowance of these claims are respectfully requested.

If a conference would expedite prosecution of the instant application, the Examiner is hereby invited to telephone the undersigned to arrange such a conference.

Respectfully submitted,



Jeffrey L. Costellia
Registration No. 35,483

NIXON PEABODY LLP
Suite 900, 401 9th Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20004-2128
(202) 585-8000

JLC/BCO